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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, the center of our joy, Your word says You bless those who do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly. You also say that those who delight in Your word day and night are like fruitful trees planted by streams of water. Today, let Your word guide those who serve here on Capitol Hill. Infuse our Senators and their staffs with Your presence, power, and peace. Lord, make Your power available to them hour by hour so that they will have the physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual stamina to complete the duties of this day. And Lord, in the midst of the business of this day, allow them to experience Your peace that passes all understanding.

We pray in Your gracious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 13, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 6 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I also ask unanimous consent I be allowed to enter into a colloquy with my colleague from Nebraska, Senator JOHANNIS.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ETHANOL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will vote on a cloture motion that deals with an amendment that would do away with a tax provision that was enacted many years back by Congress but was extended just this

last December. In fact, there were a whole series of tax extenders that were passed by the Congress in December of last year, but this particular one, the volumetric ethanol excise tax credit, was also extended. It was extended until the end of the year 2011. December 31 of this year is when it would expire with the amendment we will be voting on tomorrow—or at least the cloture motion we will be voting on is with regard to an amendment that would eliminate that and end it now. There are a number of problems associated with that approach, one of which is this issue of economic certainty. We have lots of people across this country who have made investments. We have lots of jobs that are impacted by this industry. In fact, if you look, there are 204 plants, ethanol plants, in America today, spread across 29 States and on the order of about half a million jobs—all of which, I might add, are American jobs—you have half a million American jobs impacted by this industry. The ironic thing, too, is coming on the heels of an announcement last week that Venezuela, Libya, and Iran will block OPEC from producing more oil to relieve gasoline prices, we continue to be held more and more hostage every single day by our addiction to foreign oil.

We send \$1 billion a day outside the United States to purchase foreign oil—\$1 billion every single day to purchase foreign oil. The ethanol industry, which now represents about 10 percent of the fuel mix in this country, displaces 445 million barrels of oil every single year. That is the equivalent of \$34 billion that we don't send overseas—445 million barrels of oil displaced every single year, \$34 billion that we don't have to spend purchasing foreign oil. So this is an issue that has a direct bearing on the issue of energy independence, the issue of continuing what I think is a very dangerous dependence on foreign sources of energy, foreign oil, and has a direct bearing as

• This “buller” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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